

WEATHER FORECAST:

Overcast Tonight
(Full Report on Page Two)

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COMPLETE

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GASOLENE MEN ARE ACCUSED

Part, at Least, of Recent Advance Unnecessary, Trade Board Finds.

REPORT GOES TO CONGRESS

Standard Oil Companies Dominate Field and Fix Prices, Is Charge.

Part, at least, of the recent advance in gasoline prices in the United States was unnecessary, and due to artificial causes, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

The commission today forwarded to Congress its report of the investigation of gasoline and petroleum industry.

The commission finds that gasoline prices have been arbitrarily fixed to the public in many instances, and not controlled by supply and demand.

It finds that the Standard Oil companies dominate the field and have been successful in fixing the prices of gasoline.

It finds that the increase in price has been greater than is shown on the increased price per gallon, because of deterioration of quality and the mixing in of other products.

Not Only Increase. It finds that increased earnings from the increased price is not the only increment taken by the oil companies in the latter half of 1915, when the price jumped from an average of 11 cents to an average of 25 cents a gallon, but that enhancement of the value of stocks and securities which moved upward at that time should be taken into consideration.

In other words, the taking of greater profits, enhanced the value of the securities and apparently the situation was known to investors and holders of these stocks.

Refining, pipe line transportation and marketing of the finished product, the Commission declares, are controlled by the "oil octopus."

Real competition does not exist between the various Standard Oil companies because of interlocking stock ownership through majority shareholdings by identical interests, the report says.

Legislation Urged. Legislation to meet the conditions is strongly recommended by the Commission. With this in view all evidence and findings have also been transmitted to the Attorney General.

In detail, the commission found that when it finds, as in the case of the gasoline industry, an antitrust dissolution decree has not restored competitive conditions. Congress might amend the Trade Commission act so as to authorize and direct the Attorney General to reopen the case for review as to the efficacy of a dissolution decree. In such proceedings it is suggested that the commission's findings should be admissible evidence and that the courts should have power to make new decrees to insure competition.

Wholesale prices rose between 75 and 85 per cent in 1915, according to the Commission's report, and retail prices also soared. Only a part of the advance was declared due to increased demand and scarcity, the demand increasing 38 per cent in 1915 and the production but 7 per cent less.

Very large profits were earned, as shown by the books of the companies and by enhanced stock market value of oil securities.

DEFENDS GASOLENE RISE

Due to Law of Supply and Demand, Says Standard Head.

NEW YORK, April 24.—Declaring that the rise in the price of gasoline is due to the "natural operation of the law of supply and demand," A. C. Bedford, a vice president of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, made a statement today following an announcement of the Federal Trade Commission report on gasoline prices, in which he said:

"The Standard Oil Company has maintained that the rise in the price of gasoline has been due to the natural operation of the law of supply and demand. The Federal Trade Commission now sustains that contention in principle and to a large extent in degree."

"The commission does intimate that a portion of the rise in the price of gasoline, at least in some sections of the country, may be due to conditions which it characterizes as 'artificial.'"

"We know of no artificial condition whatever that has affected prices."

PULLMAN GETS NEW AIDE

J. T. Laws Appointed Secretary to Superintendent of Police.

SEVEN BILLION BILL BECOMES LAW

President Wilson signed the bill providing for the seven-billion-dollar bond issue at 11:30 o'clock today. There were no ceremonies attending the affixing of his signature.

The bill was taken to the White House shortly after 10 o'clock and sent to the Treasury Department for reference. It was returned within an hour for the President's approval.

The pen used in signing the measure will be presented to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, who may give it to Lord Curzon, governor of the Bank of England, who is a member of the British war council commission.

BUY YOUR COAL NOW, IS DEALER'S ADVICE

Says Householders Should Not Wait in Hope of Reduction.

Order coal now and pay the present price at the time of delivery.

This is the advice given by J. Maury Dove, Jr., of the J. Maury Dove Coal Company, today.

With all coal offices swamped by orders from anxious customers, and a scarcity of labor to store the coal, procrastination is believed to be futile.

Mr. Dove said that although men could wait for coal, it was practically impossible to obtain it. The price paid by the Dove company for storing coal is 30 cents a ton. The average man can take care of ten tons in a short day's work.

Few cities have seen a summer reduction in the price of coal. Baltimore prices also are the same now as during the cold weather.

Mr. Dove stated that a decrease in the price of coal after the mine state, as was the case last year, is highly improbable, and if it came would be entirely unexpected by dealers.

With the railroads pledged to give every support to the Government, he believes that the carrying of troops and supplies will monopolize all available cars.

The small supply of coal in this city has already been over ordered, it was said.

Whether those persons who order coal from local dealers now can have it delivered this month is problematical. The chances, Mr. Dove said, were against it. They are urged, however, to place orders now rather than wait for a possible summer reduction, and pay the price current at the time of delivery.

TRAP LACKS ITS U-BOAT

German Submarine Not Captured in Hampton Roads.

The German submarine "captured" by the navy in Hampton Roads was the "same fish" the captain of the destroyer Smith saw.

This was the way naval officials disposed of the latest submarine scare today.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels denied that the submarine had been captured in Hampton Roads, that the crew of the vessel had been captured, and that the boat itself was being towed to Brooklyn navy yard for repairs, preparatory to being taken over by the United States navy.

"Nothing like that happened," Secretary Daniels said.

FIRST LOAN TO BRITAIN

America to Supply Needs of Allies as They Arise.

Great Britain will get the first of the big war loans to the allies. This has been determined by the Treasury Department, following numerous conferences of Secretary McAdoo with representatives of French and British governments and American bankers and financiers.

British offers are to be repaid before financing Russia, Italy, and others of our allies.

It is probable that the bond issue will be floated in several small issues as needed. This course, it is now believed, will not cause financial disturbance.

WEBB BILL REPORTED

Allows Firms to Pool Interests in Violation of Trust Laws.

The House Judiciary Committee today reported out the Webb export bill, permitting American firms to pool their interests in violation of anti-trust laws, so as to obtain foreign trade. The bill passed the House last session, but failed in the Senate.

TWO NORWEGIAN SHIPS SUNK.

LONDON, April 24.—The Norwegian steamers Pelve and Skjold have been torpedoed and sunk, according to word received here today. Their crews were saved.

Lloyd's does not list any vessel named Pelve. It gives the Skjold as a steel vessel of 1,125 tons, owned by J. Sundfor, of Haugesund.

AMENOS LOAN SHARK LAW.

Senator Smith of Maryland has introduced in the Senate a bill to amend the so-called loan shark law so as to allow a charge of 2 per cent per month. The law now permits 1 per cent.

PRESIDENT GOLFS EARLY.

The international war commission work did not interfere with President Wilson's golf today. He was out on the links at 8:30.

FRENCH ENVOYS DUE TOMORROW

State Dept. Announces Viviani and General Joffre Are Safe in United States.

TIME OF ARRIVAL SECRET

Mission Escorted by Officials of State and Navy Departments.

The French mission, coming here for conferences with American and English government officials, has arrived safely, though the place of arrival is withheld.

The State Department issued the following announcement today: "The State Department is advised of the safe arrival of the French mission."

Included in the French mission are former Premier Viviani, General Joffre, and Major Dreyfus.

Third Assistant Secretary of State Long, Colonel Cosby, Assistant Secretary of Navy Roosevelt, and Rear Admiral Huse are greeting the French mission.

The mission will reach Washington tomorrow morning, and the precise time of arrival here will be announced later.

Parleys Expected Tomorrow.

It is expected that official conferences between American officials and the British and French commissioners will be opened tomorrow after the arrival of the French visitors. Out of courtesy to the French mission Mr. Balfour and the members of the British mission decided to defer their formal conferences with officials of the State, Treasury, War, and Navy Departments until the arrival of Minister Viviani, General Joffre, and the other members of the French mission.

The personnel of the French mission has not been made public. It is understood, however, that it will be in number comparable with the British commission now in Washington and the ten additional British officials expected to arrive later.

To Express France's Gratitude.

Unlike the Balfour commission, which was designated by the British cabinet to come to Washington, the primary purpose of the French delegation is to bring to President Wilson a formal expression of gratitude by the French Chamber of Deputies for the action of the United States in throwing its lot with France and her allies.

At the same time, at the suggestion of Mr. Balfour, all further conferences looking to arrangements for co-operation between the United States and our allies powers have been held up pending the arrival in Washington of the French commissioners.

Grim business of war, co-ordinating the potential forces of America with those of our allies for the defeat of Germany, will occupy the time and attention of the British commission and the highest officials of the United States Government during the rest of the visitors' stay in Washington.

Social festivities incident to the visit of the distinguished Britons, headed by Rt. Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, will come to an end tonight.

Reception This Evening.

Following dinners at the home of Secretary of State Lansing, Secretary of War Baker, Secretary of the Navy Daniels and Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo in honor of members of the commission, a reception will be given at the Pan-American building.

Secretary Lansing, who will preside at the reception, which begins at 10 o'clock, arranged the affair to include members of Congress and officials of the various executive departments to meet and fraternize with the members of the commission. Tomorrow the British will settle (Continued on Tenth Page.)

NO CHANCE FOR GOLF GAME

Wilson and Balfour Not Likely to Meet on Links Here.

Efforts of the friends of President Wilson and the Right Hon. Arthur James Balfour to have them meet in a match on the golf links seem likely to prove futile.

The President plays what his intimates call "a fair game—90 to 100"—while the former premier is touted as "an expert—invariably below 90."

This difference in the respective link ability of the two notables, however, is not the reason for the preclusion of a possible match, according to White House officials.

"The President goes in for golf simply for the exercise and, as no notion of playing a perfect game," it was said.

"The fact that the President has an unbroken rule, not to have any matches leads those in his confidence to assume confidently that he and Mr. Balfour will have no contest on the links."

EXPLAINS LOAFING ORDER

Messenger Doesn't Take It as Anything Personal.

Up at the Navy Department, where desks are strung along the corridors for lack of office room, a youthful messenger sat twiddling his thumbs. On the corridor desk before him there was a sign:

"No loafing."

Another came along, sniffed as he looked at the sign and wanted to know why the youngster didn't "practice what he preached."

The first messenger added a line to his desk sign to make it read: "No loafing. This means you, not me."

BALFOUR AIDE URGES CONSCRIPTION ONLY WAY TO WIN WAR, HE ASSERTS TELLING OF BRITAIN'S TRAGIC ERROR

CLARK AGAINST FORCED SERVICE

Speaker Bitterly Opposed to Conscription Method of Raising Army.

SAYS HE WON'T VOTE FOR IT

Refuses to Bow to Request of Half Million Petitioners for System.

Speaker Champ Clark is bitterly opposed to a conscription army system as against the volunteer method.

He told a delegation from the National Security League today that he would never vote for conscription. The delegation presented Clark with a petition bearing 500,000 names of persons who think a volunteer system wrong. The members asked Clark "as head of the popular branch of the National Legislature," to vote for a straight conscription system.

"I'd never vote for such a plan," declared Clark, with heat. "Such a bill never will pass. The War Department is trying to bulldoze the country into approving a conscription system. The best armies we ever had were volunteer armies."

"I do not want to see my son conscripted. I favor letting the flower and youth of the country volunteer before fastening the disgrace of conscription upon them."

Congressman Kahn, ranking Republican member of the House Military Committee and the man the Administration is having to rely upon to put its bill through, introduced the delegation to Clark.

The delegation was headed by Lloyd Taylor, chairman, and Herbert Barry, secretary of the league.

ASKS U. S. OWNERSHIP

Senator Thomas Urges Seizure of Railroads and Water Lines.

If the United States is to avoid the mistake of England in prosecuting the war it is important that it adopt such of her policies that have been successful, according to Senator Thomas, of Colorado, in speaking of the conscription bill in the Senate today.

He declared that just as England had reached out at the very beginning of the war and had taken over control of the railroads and water transportation so the United States should be likewise.

Senator Thomas is opposed to conscription, and when the Senate met today, with the conscription before it, continued the argument which he has been making in favor of a volunteer system.

Leads to Discussion.

This led him into a discussion of England's war policies in other matters and the raising of troops.

"Much has been said here and with a great deal of force," said Senator Thomas, "that we should not make the mistakes of Great Britain. Should we not also imitate her successes while avoiding her mistakes?"

He held that this was even more important than the method of raising troops.

ATTACKS CONSCRIPTION

Congressman Says It Will Rob Homes of Undeveloped Youths.

Passage of a straight conscription army bill will "rob the homes of the country" of youths "undeveloped physically and mentally, many of them with no spirit to fight," Congressman Fields of the Military Committee, declared today in opening House debate.

"We need the best fighting force we can get," Fields said. "Under a straight conscription system we shall get an army of young men, some of them under twenty-one years old."

"It is not a fact that the average age of the Northern soldiers in the civil war was nineteen?" asked Congressman Kelly of Pennsylvania.

"It is, and statistics show that for every death on the battlefield there were two deaths from preventable diseases because of the susceptibility of the youths to disease," Field replied.

Refers to Concrete Point.

"Would that be true with modern medical attendance?" Kelly asked.

"I am unwilling to concede," Fields replied, "that undeveloped youths are not more susceptible than men."

Fields admitted that under the present bill no "youth" under twenty-one years is eligible for army duty. The amendment accepted by the War Department provides for persons between 21 and 40 years to serve. But Fields said, nineteen is the minimum in the Senate bill.

WHY GEN. BRIDGES ADVOCATES CONSCRIPTION SYSTEM

"We British were saddled with the volunteer system. If we had had some compulsion system it would have saved us many heartaches."

"We lost a year preparing our armies for the field. We say if you're going to war you must go the whole hog. Every man, woman, and child must do a part."

"The British people opposed conscription because they did not know what it was."

"Now they realize it is vitally necessary."

"There is no other way to win a war."

"Selective conscription not only provides the fighting men but it allows the nation to keep at home men better fitted for other necessary services."

"It prevents the sending of men to the front with guns on their shoulders when they ought to be commanders of troops."

—Excerpts from interview given today by Lieut. Gen. B. T. M. Bridges of the British army.

REDFIELD INDORSES NEW EXPORT BILL

Secretary of Commerce Asks House to Pass Adamson Measure.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield today asked the House Interstate Commerce Committee to report favorably the Adamson export bill, an Administration measure which gives the President power to regulate exports, so as "to keep England and France going."

Redfield told the committee that the bill is purely a war measure, and should be passed without delay. It gives the President broad powers, enabling him to stop export of any material.

Cites Several Instances.

Several instances were cited by Redfield to show need for the bill. Coal has been shipped to Argentina, he said, consigned to German firms, and there has been re-shipped to sea to supply German raiders.

Redfield cited the tin plate shortage as one reason for passage of the measure. Now, he said, huge quantities of tin plate are being sent to the Orient. Under present laws, all the tin plate can do is to request that such shipments be delayed. If the bill is passed, he can stop the export of tin plate so as to assure the allies of plenty of supplies.

American Submarine.

Incidentally, Redfield said, a submarine recently sighted off Nantucket and supposed to be a German had been proved conclusively to be an American submarine. A lightship sighted the submarine at 9:05, he said. Twenty minutes later the department here had a report of it.

Redfield cited this as a reason for passage of a bill to equip all light houses with radio, telegraph, and telephone communication.

This bill was reported favorably last week.

Assistant Attorney General Warren spoke in favor of the export bill and backed up Redfield's request for its passage.

The bill was drafted by experts of the State, Justice, and Commerce Departments.

"MUGGED" BY DROVES

War Office Clerks Line Up for Identification Pictures.

They're "mugging" them in droves at the State, War and Navy building today. From twenty to fifty in a row the officials and clerks, high and low, of all sexes and colors, have lined up before the official State Department photographer for the picture that is to be printed on an identification card admitting them to the building. Secretary Lansing and his fellow Cabinet officers had private sittings with the photographer, but there was no time for individual treatment when there were something like 5,000 photographs to take, so the photographer lined them up for group pictures, and the individual heads will then be cut out of the group to go on the pass. The new photographic pass system goes into operation May 1.

NEW RECRUITING STATIONS

Two for D. C. Guard in Theater Lobbies, Third on Avenue.

Three new recruiting stations for the District National Guard, two in theater lobbies, and the third at 1221 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, will be opened within the next few days, it was announced by Col. Glendie B. Young today. The stations are made possible by new recruiting regulations issued by the War Department today.

One of the theatrical stations will be in the foyer of B. F. Keith's. The other will be in the foyer of the Gayety Theater, in Ninth street.

SAYS ENGLAND IS DEFEATED.

BERLIN (via London), April 24.—"England's might has suffered heavy, sanguinary defeat through the foresight of German headquarters, and the tenacious desire of our brave troops for victory," declared today's official statement.

"The army will face new battles with complete confidence."

BRIDGES FLAYS VOLUNTEER IDEA

British Commissioner Declares Most of Nation's Disasters Were Due to System.

WRONG MEN SENT TO FRONT

General Explains That English Opposed Plan Only Because of Misunderstanding.

Selective conscription by which the nation may cull out the men too valuable to be sent to the firing line, as well as select those to do the fighting, is vital to the United States if any hope of success in war is to be entertained.

This was the message delivered to the American people today by Lieut. Gen. B. T. M. Bridges, who stepped out of the international war council of the allies to discuss, frankly and freely, the costly blunders made by Great Britain during the early stages of the European war.

There was a note of quiet tragedy in the voice of the distinguished, frequently decorated, twice-wounded British warrior as he told of the killing off of thousands of highly trained men who never should have been sent to the front because of their fitness for even more important industrial duty at home.

System Hopeless.

At the outset he made it plain that selective conscription was adopted by the English people because they realized the utter hopelessness of the volunteer system.

"We were saddled with the volunteer system and would have done almost anything to get rid of it," said General Bridges. "If we had had some sort of compulsory system it would have simplified our difficulties immensely and saved us a great deal. The volunteer system hampered and retarded us in every phase of the war. The English people had to be frightened out of it."

"The loss of so many men at the front who would have been of far greater value at home did more, perhaps, than anything else to bring about the adoption of selective conscription. We realized after 2 years' blundering that highly trained men should not be sent to the trenches to die and that the government should have the right to select the fighting men and those to be kept at home for industrial service, which is just as vital and necessary as maintaining an army in the trenches or in the field."

Must Go the Whole Hog.

"If a nation is going to make war it must go the whole hog. There are no half way measures in war. There must be intelligence and system. It is no longer a war merely of expeditions. Modern warfare demands the co-ordination of all of a nation's resources. This can best be done through selective conscription, as has been proved by Great Britain."

The interview with General Bridges today was part of the program adopted by Foreign Secretary Balfour to make the visit of the Britishers "a mission of service."

General Bridges has been assigned the duty of setting before the American people the facts concerning the British army, the way that army was raised, the way it fights, and the conditions under which it fights.

Announcement was made today by Geoffrey Butler, attaché of the British foreign office, and spokesman for the mission, that each member of the party will give an interview on the particular subject in which he has specialized during the war and is best versed.

Balfour to Speak.

Foreign Secretary Balfour probably will give an interview tomorrow outlining the general scope of the mission's purpose and what it hopes to accomplish while here.

Although no reference was made by General Bridges today to the fact that Congress is still to take final action on the selective conscription measure now pending, his repeated references to the urgency of conscription for all nations at war seemed significant.

He admitted that the English people did not take kindly to the idea of conscription at first, but added, "they are fanatics on the subject today."

"They opposed it because they did not know what it was," said the warrior. "They now realize that it is simply the making of war on business principles. It involves, or might as its cardinal principle, is co-ordination of national forces, without which practically nothing can be accomplished."

Retarded Their Progress.

The calm, unimaginative commander of the Nineteenth division now fighting on the western front, pointed out how Lord Kitchener's volunteer recruiting was the innocent means of retarding England's progress in the war.

"Kitchener's problem was to raise a volunteer army. It was wrong, but Kitchener, a good soldier, threw himself into the task and did it."

"If it hadn't been for Kitchener's tremendous personality we would